



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS CONTRACTS FOR TWO ALASKA FISHERY RESEARCH PROJECTS

The effect which Alaska's new industry, logging for pulp production, will have upon its old industry, salmon fishing, will be the object of a special study, Acting Secretary of the Interior Clarence A. Davis said today. The study will be made by the Fisheries Research Institute of the University of Washington under a contract signed by John L. Farley, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The contract provides for an expenditure of \$35,000 and is for one year's duration.

Acting Secretary Davis also announced that the Fisheries Research Institute would make a study of the effect of Alaska sea lions and hair seals on the salmon and halibut fisheries. This contract is for \$20,000 and provides for a year's study.

Large-scale logging operations in the huge stands of virgin timber in Alaska are just beginning and the Fish and Wildlife Service is concerned about any possible damage to salmon streams. As a result, the Service is seeking ways to protect the fishery against harmful effects which might occur. A field station is being established near Ketchikan and detailed observations will be made of biological and physical changes resulting from the logging. Of particular interest will be the extent of silting in the stream bed and any changes in salmon runs and the success of spawning.

The damaging effect which the big sea lions and the hair seal have upon fishing gear in those northern waters is well known to the fishing industry but the general effects on fisheries have not been measured. For some time these animals have been considered serious predators on salmon and halibut, but to what extent is not known. The Fish and Wildlife Service is asking that special attention be given to the locations of the rookeries of these animals, the total populations, the trend in populations and the food habits. The results of this study will be related to the findings of other studies on hair seal and sea lions made by the Institute.

These research projects are financed by the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act which provides for the development of fisheries and markets for fish products.

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